**Congregational Church**

**of Westminster West**

**A United Church of Christ**

September 3, 2023

*Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude “How Beautiful” *Twila Paris, arr. Lloyd Larsen*

\*Call to Worship ✧

One Voice: We are called to be people of faith in the midst of the world,

**Many Voices: and so we mix our worship and our work,**

**our faith and our life.**

One: We gather here as people who live in the world and yet,

**Many: we gather as people who have been called to see the world**

**from a different viewpoint.**

One: God has called us together,

God has called us to be part of a community.

**Many: God challenges us to consider questions of priority**

**as we engage with the world.**

One: In this time together,

**Many: may God open our hearts, minds and eyes,**

**allowing us to see deeper,**

**helping us to live in the world**

**while still offering a challenge to the ways of the world.**

**We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

\*Hymn No. 425 “For the Fruit of All Creation” *NCH*

*For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.*

*For God’s gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.*

*For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping*

*future’s needs in earth’s safekeeping, thanks be to God.*

*In the just reward of labor, God’s will is done.*

*In the help we give our neighbor, God’s will is done.*

*In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,*

*In the harvests we are sharing, God’s will is done.*

*For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.*

*For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.*

*For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,*

*most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.*

Litany of Confession (seated) *Iona Abbey Worship Book*

L: Holy God, Maker of all

**All: Have mercy on us.**

L: Jesus Christ, Servant of the poor,

**A: Have mercy on us.**

L: Holy Spirit, Breath of life,

**A: Have mercy on us.**

L: Let us in silence confess our faults and admit our frailty.

...*silence*...

L: Before God, and with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness: to the ways I wound my life, the lives of others, and the life of the world.

**A: May God forgive you, Christ renew you, and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.**

L: Amen

**A: Before God, with the people of God, we confess to our**

**brokenness: to the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others, and the life of the world.**

L: May God forgive you, Christ renew you, and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

**A: Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

L: Brothers and sisters, I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Hear the good news: we are forgiven!

**All: Thanks be to God**

\*Gloria No. 756

*Gloria, gloria in excelsis deo!*

*Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!*

Message

*based on Deuteronomy 15: 1-2, 7-11; Luke 15: 11-32*

(*On Sundays where we will be sharing holy communion, the sermon, too, becomes a shared endeavor.)*

Choir Anthem “I’ll Die No More for Bread” *P Amidon arr*

Prayers of the People

One: May the Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Let us pray.

Joys and Concerns of the Community

*Silence*

Pastoral prayer

The Lord’s prayer (unison)

*Our (Father/Mother/Creator), who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Let us not fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.*

Offertory “Quietude #1” James Michael Stevens

\*Doxology Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God for all that Love has done,

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

\*Dedicatory Prayer

Celebration of Holy Communion

Communion Hymn No. 207 “Just As I Am” *NCH*

*Just as I am, without one plea*

*but that your blood was shed for me,*

*and that you called inviting me,*

*O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

*Just as I am, though tossed about*

*with many a conflict, many a doubt,*

*fightings and fears within, without,*

*O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

*Just as I am, you will receive,*

*will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;*

*because your promise I believe,*

*O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

*Just as I am, your love unknown*

*has broken every barrier down;*

*now to be yours, and yours alone,*

*O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

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*We celebrate an open table. When the moment to receive communion comes, all are welcome to come forward and share in the meal. If you are unable to walk forward but would like to participate, it will be brought to you. If you prefer not to receive communion, you are welcome to remain seated in quiet meditation.*

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\*Hymn No. 217 “Lord of All Hopefulness” *Pilgrim*

*Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,*

*whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,*

*be there at our waking and give us, we pray,*

*Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.*

*Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,*

*whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,*

*be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,*

*Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.*

*Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,*

*Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,*

*be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,*

*Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.*

*Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,*

*whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,*

*be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,*

*Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day. Amen.*

\*Benediction

Postlude “Wayfaring Stranger”

*Traditional Spiritual, arr. Mark Hayes*

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\* indicates that all who are able shall stand

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments downstairs

following the worship service

Church and Community Notes

\*Our pastor, Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno, will be on sabbatical from September 4 through November 28. She will be back in the saddle in time for Advent. During her absence, the Deacons will be your go-tos for pastoral needs. They have backup available in emergencies, but they will do the triage work to discern whose pastoral gifts need to be accessed when. Deacons are **Charlotte** Gifford (802-380-0494), **Karen** Blanchard (802-380-4540), **Sue** Venman (802-376-9987), **Adrienne** Major (802-380-9050), and **David** Mulholland (802-579-5166).

/Upcoming Events:

Sept. 9: Community Fair! Come have fun (and help, which is part of the fun!)

Sept. 10: Post Fair Hymn Sing led by Sue Venman and Eric Robinson.

TBA: Congregational discernment work with leader Rev. David Vanderlinde-Abernathy, sometime in October … because why should Susie have all the fun???

✧Attributions: Our Call to worship was posted by Rev Gord on his blog, Worship Offerings. http://worshipofferings.blogspot.ca/

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Worship Participants:

Musician: Eric Robinson

Deacons: Sue Venman, Karen Blanchard

Tech Deacon: Charlotte Gifford Trustees: Guy Payne, chair

Minister to the Congregation: Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno

Ministers to the World: The Congregation